

SRCAF NOTES ~ November, 2004

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Board Members:

Lynnel Pollock ~ Chair, *Yolo County*
Marc Faye ~ Vice Chair, *Yolo County*
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Jane Dolan, *Butte County*

Dan Gover, *Shasta County*

Shirley Lewis, *Butte County*

Dan Silva, *Sutter County*

Doug White, *Colusa County*

Russell Young, *Sutter County*

Ex-Officio Members:

Frank Michny, *Bureau of Reclamation*

Darrin Thome, *U.S. F&WS*

Mark Charlton, *Corps of Engineers*

Diana Jacobs, *Department of Fish & Game*

Pete Rabbon, *The Reclamation Board*

Dwight Russell, *Department of Water Resources*

Burt Bundy, *Manager*
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Ellen Gentry, *Administrative Assistant*



Future SRCAF Board and Committee Meetings~

CBDA Scoping Meeting - November 16, 2004, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
Ord Bend Community Hall, Ord Bend.

LAC meeting - November 18, 2004, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Colusa County Farm Bureau Office, Colusa.

TAC meeting - December 7, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Willows City Hall, Willows.

SRCAF Board meeting - December 2, 2004, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday Afternoon Club, Willows.

Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup Meeting - December 6, 12 noon to 3:00 p.m., Colusa County Farm Bureau Office, Colusa.

Projects/Activities Updates

Colusa Subreach Study ~ This CALFED funded, TNC project involves a comprehensive approach to restoration planning and includes a high level of stakeholder involvement. The SRCAF is named as a sub-contractor to provide community outreach, meeting coordination, and an advisory role in guiding this three year study.

A 21 member Advisory Workgroup, made up of landowners, other local interests and resource agencies representatives held their first meeting November 3, in Colusa. The collaborative effort is tasked to develop a conservation strategy along the 21 mile stretch between river miles 143.5 and 164.5 of the Sacramento River, from Princeton to Colusa. The study will focus on restoration planning of currently owned public and TNC properties. Issues dealing with flood control, recreation and adjacent landowner impacts were discussed. Gregg Werner, TNC, gave an ecosystem overview including land use and land ownership breakdowns involving the 5466 acres within the levees. Burt Bundy, SRCAF, gave an overview of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project. The next meeting is set for Dec 6.

CALFED ERP Monitoring PSP ~ The California Bay-Delta Authority's Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) is seeking applications for projects that will monitor and evaluate ecosystem restoration actions, or groups of restoration actions, previously funded through ERP solicitation processes or by directed actions. Several of the proposals will be reviewed through the SRCAF Technical Advisory Committee for consistency with the Handbook. Because of the tight timeline to submit proposals (Nov 19), the SRCAF will have an opportunity to comment later, on the completed proposals. Questions that deal with the effectiveness of restoration projects in accomplishing goals dealing with ESA recovery and natural riverine systems improvement should be addressed. The TAC will participate in ongoing review and coordination of these studies.

Hamilton City ~ A District Engineer's Report has been completed for Hamilton City and US Army Chief Engineer's Report is expected before the end of the year. These reports should allow studies to continue but authorization and funding for Pre-construction Engineering and Design is included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), and has not passed out of Congress. Passage of WRDA is needed to move forward. The HCCSD and landowners are continuing to develop the new Reclamation District, which will be responsible for maintenance of the levee. An independent group is looking at the possibility of an Interpretive Center within the study area. The SRCAF will facilitate a Workgroup meeting as soon as any new information is available. A Levee Festival in October was very successful and the food was great, as always.

Long Time SB1086 Supporter is Gone ~ Mel Dodgin, commercial fishing representative on the first SB 1086 Advisory Council and former Resources Agency appointee on the SRCAF Board, died November 5th after a long illness. Mel will be fondly remembered as a respected voice for fishery related issues. We will all miss him.

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the SB 1086 Advisory Council was held jointly with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's Bay-Delta Public Advisory Subcommittee on October 21, 2004 in Sacramento. At that meeting, Diana Jacobs gave the Background on SB 1086 and the SRCAF, and provided a graph that showed a comparison, and the improvement, of salmon numbers in the Sacramento River. Stacy Cepello made a presentation on the status of Sacramento River riparian corridor restoration which included channel and vegetation surveys, changes in ownership and vegetation, and a review of the 150 year meander belt. Burt Bundy gave a review of the 2003 and 2004 Annual Reports and discussed the newly adopted Strategic Plan. The joint committee members asked questions and provided input into the activities of the SRCAF.

■ AT THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) ~ At the Oct. TAC, a study of restoration of 82 acres at Dicus Slough in Butte County was reviewed by Dan Efsseff, River Partners. Woody Elliott, State Parks, presented a CDPR proposal to purchase 44 acres near the mouth of Pine Creek. Both projects were found to be consistent with the principles of the Handbook. Scott Clemons, WCB, reported on a meeting with USF&WS and DFG to establish an agreement to allow some take of Elderberry bushes during routine maintenance of flood control projects. It was suggested that this issue be brought before the LAC. The Colusa Sub-reach Study and Cross Boundary Issues were both discussed. Nov. TAC, preliminary reviews of some of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program monitoring proposals were presented. *The Nature Conservancy* reported one proposal focusing on horticultural restoration. The research will look at vegetation, birds and the Valley Elderberry longhorn beetle between Red Bluff and Colusa, focusing on restoration sites. *River Partners* presented four main proposals which fit in to other efforts: 1) Valley Elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) sampling, 2) A native grass study, 3) Subsurface water quality testing under restored areas, and 4) Vegetation and wildlife response to restoration. *Stacy Cepello, Department of Water Resources*, reported on a large woody riverine habitat study extension proposal which tags river logs with radio tags and monitors what happens to them. This connects the forest to the river and fish habitat. He discussed another monitoring proposal that would quantify changes in the river over time. Cepello also reported on the monitoring study of cottonwood and other species regeneration which is a critical component of river management and Northern Delta storage work. *Kristin Carter, CSU Chico, and Fraser Schilling, UC Davis*, discussed a comprehensive ecosystem monitoring proposal with which they will collaborate with several groups, including the SRCAF.

■ SCOPING AGENDA ~ The California Bay-Delta Authority (CBDA) Scoping Meeting for the Chico Landing Subreach Restoration CEQA Process will be held Tuesday, November 16, 2004 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Ord Bend Community Hall, 3241 Highway 45, Ord Bend, CA. CBDA has developed an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for potential restoration of three parcels within the Chico Landing Subreach. This is the public scoping meeting for the EIR. Copies of the NOP/IS can be obtained at: <http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/EcosystemRestoration/Ecosystem.shtml>. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Fris of the California Bay-Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Program at (916) 445-5031.

■ SRCAF Board of Directors ~ The SRCAF Board meeting has been postponed to 3pm, Dec 2 at the Monday Afternoon Club Hall in Willows. CALFED recommendations for Payment-In-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) changes will be addressed and the Board appointment process discussed. The SRCAF grant amendment request to CALFED, requesting a two year time extension and additional funding for a technical position has been approved. Applications are now being accepted for a Resource Conservation Assistant. Contact the Chico Research Foundation at: www.csuchico.edu/rfdn or call 898-6811.



Project Tracker Website - The SRCAF interactive project tracking website has been established. It is now public and has been available for entering new projects since the first part of September. The website address is: srcafprojecttracker.org.